

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS ANKARA 7121

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TAKES UP STATE SECURITY COURTS BILL

REF: ANKARA 7080

1. IN AN OFTEN ACRIMONIOUS SESSION TWICE RECESSED TO
ALLOW TENSIONS TO EASE, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEPT 15 SPENT MOST
OF ITS TIME ON PROCEDURAL ARGUMENTS BUT MANAGED TO VOTE FOR
TAKING UP FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE JUSTICE PARTY'S (JP) DRAFT
BILL FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE STATE SECURITY COURTS (SSC).
AS ON THE PRECEDING DAY, THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)
MEMBERS STAYED AWAY UNTIL A QUORUM HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, THEN
ENTERED AND ATTEMPTED TO OBSTRUCT THE PROCEEDINGS. THE VOTE
IN FAVOR OF TAKING UP THE JP VERSION WAS 240 TO 17, WITH AT
LEAST 15 OF THE NEGATIVE VOTES CAST BY THE FEW RPP MEMBERS
WHO, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, STAYED NEHIND WHEN THE REST OF
THE RPP WALKED OUT. MOST NOTABLE EVENT OF THE SESSION
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WAS THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY'S (RR) SUPPORT FOR TAKING

UP THE JP BILL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT AS LATE AS THE PRECEDING EVENING THE RR PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT INDICATING IT WOULD INSIST ON ITS OWN BILL, WHICH INCLUDES ARTICLE 163 CRIMES (CRIMES AGAINST SECULARISM) IN THE COURTS' PURVIEW.

2. MEANWHILE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THE SAME DAY (SEPT 15), TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION CHAIRMAN HALIL TUNC DECLARED THAT IF THE PARLIAMENT APPROVES A NEW SSC LAW WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE SSC JURISDICTION OVER ARTICLE 163 CRIMES, TURK-IS WOULD UNDERTAKE A SERIES OF NATIONWIDE ACTIONS "ASIDE FROM MEETINGS AND MARCHES" BUT DID NOT FURTHER CLARIFY THE THREAT.
FRANCIS

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